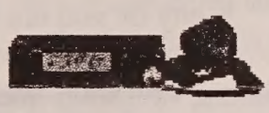
Newsletter of the Titusville Amateur Radio Club

FEBRUARY 2003

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

The main door prize at the Orlando Hamfest was a spanking new YAESU FT100D. This multimode transceiver covers all nine MF/HF amateur bands, plus VHF/UHF coverage of the 50,144 and 430 MHz bands. The grand prizewinner is none other than our own David Webb KD4LLO. David is the first TARC member to win the coveted prize and our heartiest congratulation is extended to him.



Clyde K4EOS acquired a very nice table location for us at the event. The club table provided a favorite rendezvous for the assembly of the intelligentsia for the purpose of handshaking and making world decisions. Many thanks to the TARC members who helped man the tables. We were fortunate to have so many friends come by and show their purchases and to do some of their horse-trading with us.

The Technician theory and 5 WPM Morse code class as being taught by Stephanie K4MVO is going great. Several of the class members have elected to take Tech license exam early. Even though they have passed the Tech they continue to attend the classes. Stephanie says club members are welcome to come down and sit in on the classes. We want to show the students we are delighted to see them become amateur radio operators.

Our thanks to Becky KF4HTB for the many years she served the club as editor of the TARC Newsletter. I know she would appreciate each and every one of us to tell her we appreciate the many hours she donated to this fine publication. We are fortunate to have Cori KE4WQD to take over the Editor position. Cori has gotten off to a super good start. We want to provide Cori all the support she needs. This includes any events, news items etc. that you would be willing to share with your fellow club members.

Fellow club members this month that ole Silent Key Club has taken from us two of our dearest friends and long time members, Dave Creasman AC4JX and Bob Nedimyer W4VQB.

Bob W4VQB devoted so much of his life to helping others. Included in his contribution to amateur radio he taught several classes including both technical and Morse code, which he was very proficient. Bob served his club on the Technical Committee, numerous fund raising activities, served as a member of the TARC Board of Directors and Past President of our club. To Bob's family and to his friends we extend or condolences.

Dave Creasman AC4JX, known as "The Peace Maker" to his radio friends held an Extra Class license. Due to injuries sustained in an accident in 1965, Dave's contact with the outside world was his radio equipment. I know of no one who has contributed so much to his community as our departed friend. We were blessed in that Dave simultaneously monitored all local repeaters as well as the emergency frequency 24 hours a day 7 days a week to offer and render assistance to local as well as to visitors to our area. Never has a truer statement been spoken than "Dave was the greatest asset our club ever had". "The Peace Maker will be missed by all who knew him. We can take comfort in knowing he is no longer in pain and that for him there is a brighter tomorrow. Rest in peace our beloved Dave.
See you at the next club meeting
Best of 73's Bud K4CWG

TREASURER REPORT

By Becky Lee KF4HTB

Beginning Bal.	$1,807.27
Deposits	846.50
Total Income	$2,653.77
Expenditures	197.92
Balance (1/31/03)	$2,455.85

Brevard Emergency Amateur Radio Services Report for February 2003
By Stephanie Phillips K4MVO

Although I was not present at the February BEARS meeting, I have been informed that the major topics of discussion were the recent loss of our good friend and TARC member, Dave Creasman, AC4JX; the EMWIN; upcoming training opportunities; the acquisition of some new equipment; the Orlando Hamfest; and the FRC and emergency communications repeater frequency assignments.

Ernie Baldini, K4RBD, gave a thorough presentation on the Emergency Management Weather Information Network, EMWIN, which was followed by a vote of approval to acquire 3 demodulators. One each, for each Comm Vehicle, and one for a portable configuration to be used in demonstrations for our County's emergency services, Fire, Police, Sheriff's Office, and other support functions. Maybe we can talk Ernie into coming up to a TARC meeting and giving us a Demo.

Also approved was the acquisition of a replacement Marine Radio.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Feb 18 - Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, at County EOC
Feb 18-21 – Severe Weather Week, Tornado Drill on the 19th, Skywarn, NWS, EOC, and Statewide
Mar 6 - CERT, Melbourne Beach Community Center
Mar 11-16 – Emergency Planning Class, EOC
March 24 – CERT, Satellite Beach
Mar 25-27 – CERT Train the Trainer, EOC
April 22 – CERT, Merritt Island
April 26 – Ride for the Red, Bicycle Tour of Brevard, Wickham Park
May 1 – CERT, Barefoot Bay
May 12-16 – State Hurricane Drill, EOC, the entire State of FL
May 17 – VOAD Showcase, Melbourne
June 9-13 – Governor's Hurricane Conference, Tampa

There was considerable discussion amongst the Board members about the Florida Repeater Council's suggestion to link all Emergency Communications throughout the State to a single frequency pair: 146.94/146.34. Locally, this is currently in use by John Anderson, K4GCC, for the NASA Select and Launch Information. Currently the majority of the BEARS Board is opposed to this idea for several reasons: First, it would require just about every County, Municipality and other Repeater owners to retune repeater systems, antennas, cavities and crystals, and we ask, "Who will pay for the changes?" Secondly, and most importantly, the density of emergency communications required for a state-wide effort can not possibly be supported on a single frequency pair. The benefits of using existing repeaters, the coverage of which is well known by local users, far outweighs the idea of transforming an existing repeater network into something unknown. The technical challenge of linking repeater systems is what amateur radio is all about, and can best be handled by diverse links on landlines and 440 MHz. If you have any opinions about this issue, please share it with your FRC Representative, Karen Power, KD4DJX, because the FRC has decided to vote in September at the Melbourne Hamfest.

I have the Amateur Radio Emergency Services, ARES, application forms if you are interested in getting involved. We'll ask Ray Kassis, N4LEM, our ARRL Emergency Coordinator, to make the ARES Badges at our March meeting. We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the Hurricane Shelters and at other strategic locations, like the Fire and Police Stations, major intersections, or from the comfort of your home. Please don't forget; Volunteer Emergency Communicators are a big part of the total Homeland Security effort.

If any of you are interested in helping maintain the BEARS equipment, a group meets every Monday morning at 9am, at Jim Bayless, W4BAL's place in Northwest Cocoa. Talk-in frequency is 147.135, the County repeater in Rockledge.

County ARES/RACES nets on Wednesdays, at both 9am and again at 7pm, on 147.135. The BEARS meet at 7pm, on the second Tuesday of the month at the County EOC in Rockledge. Talk-in frequency is 147.135. Our meetings are open, but you must have valid identification and you must sign -in at the front desk, so come a little early. If you have any questions, please give me a call: 264-2492.

ABELL'S ANECDOTES
By Pike Abell W4EPU

A couple of news items recently caught my attention. The first one appeared on both the radio news and the Press. It was a story about a travel agency who specializes in clothing-optional vacation packages. They chartered a 172 seat Boeing 747 for a flight from Miami to Cancun, Mexico. The tourist agency is touting the trip as the world's first flight for naturalist passengers. Once the plane reaches cruising altitude the passengers are invited to shed their clothing, relax, and enjoy the trip. The crew will be dressed but are required to maintain the temperature/humidity level for the comfort of the passengers.

Getting through security should go rapidly, as the patrons will be traveling light. i.e. No extra changes of clothing, etc.

Some questions come to my mind:

While the passengers are in a disrobed state, will the attendants instruct the passengers to buckle and unbuckle their seatbelts *very carefully*?

Will they serve *hot* coffee? Or even ice cream?

Will the Captain and crew be instructed to play No-Peekie?

Cancun is notorious for its fine beaches and fun in the sun. Some of the tourists will, no doubt, be tanned in places where very few people have ever been tanned before...

The other story had to do with a 'Pooper Scooper' convention. It seems that there is a close knit group of professionals whose main livelihood is scooping up animal droppings at parades, rodeos and other functions where animals participate. These folks are highly specialized and are proud of it.

It stands to reason that at such a convention there are a number of competitive events. For example, I would assume, trophies for the fastest scooper-uper; scoopers leaving the pavement the cleanest; the largest morsel retrieved in one piece. And, probably the grand prize is the largest pile a scooper collects in one event Actually, the possibilities are unlimited.

Anyway, as Will Rogers once said, "Never kick a cow patty on a hot day." 73s and 88s

JANUARY MINUTES
by Ozzie N4SCY, V/President

Bud K4CWG called the meeting to order at 19:00 EST, followed by our traditions of the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence.

Introductions took a while, since more than 40 people showed up for the meeting, along with Stephanie W4MVO's novice/tech class.

Cori WA3FKC, the new newsletter editor, suggested that anyone wanting to submit an article for the club newsletter should send it to her e-mail address, WA3FKC@Amsat.Org

Stephanie W4MVO gave the program talk on "Ham Shack and Antenna Safety". the topic covered the new FCC rules of RF "Specific Absorption Rate". This was both an update for our members who'd had their license a few years before these rules came out, as well as material that Stephanie's Novice/Tech class needed to cover for the course.

KG4UQH won the 50/50, and gave his winnings back to the club.

CLUB OFFICERS

President:
Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779
Vice President:
Ozzie Osband N4SCY 321-LIFTOFF
Secretary/Treasurer:
Becky Lee KF4HTB 267-9375

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208
Ed Summersett WA3FKC 269-5890
Hank Phillips AA4HP 264-2492
Ralph Hall AE4LE 267-9418

CLUB INFORMATION

Meetings: Monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 7 PM at the Jaycee Building , 405 N. Singleton Ave.

Next Meeting Date: 25 February

Newsletter Editor: KE4WQD Cori Summersett WA3FKC@amsat.org
Deadline for Input to March's Newsletter is 17 March 2003

Nets:

Red Eye– Sundays 6 AM – 7 AM on 7.165 MHz

Traders – Mondays at 10 AM on 146.91

Friendship – Tuesdays at 6:30 PM on 146.91

Mosquito-Wednesdays at 7 PM on 28.333

VIP – Thursdays at 10 AM on 146.91

REPEATER CUSTODIAN BOARD

Les Griner K4SJC (146.91) 267-1565
Warren Murray W4CEL (146.97) 638-5476
Dave McLean WB4SIG (444.15) 267-6181
Larry Carr WB9MFJ (Packet-Rose Node) 268-4114

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE, FL 32781-0073

W4REN
Jan Ferguson
P. O. Box 1101
CocoaFL 32923-1101

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 174
(120 regular, 41 family,
10 honorary, 3 other)

NEW MEMBERS:
KG4YFO Bob Farrington
KG4YFN Linda Farrington
N3DMI Bob Green
KG4YFP Kim Lucks

RENEWALS:
KS4BD Darwin McCombs
K4BZJ Les Widick
KV4DC Roe Weaver
KD4DOJ Faye Skidmore
W4EPU Pike Abell
KE4YQL Clara Abell
AA4HP Hank Phillips
K4MVO Stephanie Phillips
KD4JBL Willie Williams
N2JY Art Smith
KC2ENO Judy Smith
KG4KVO Ed Wirth
AC4KU Al Sanford
KG4PGJ Michael Brady
000000 Lee Brady
KK4SH Vince Gonzalez
KE4MXC Jean Gonzalez
N5RAQ Ron Richardson
K5UNT Mal Harper
KF4VRQ Marvin Thorpe
WB4ZUY Wynn Rostek
WB4ZUZ Theresa Valek

HAMFESTS:

2/23 Zephyrhills (Sunday Only)
3/8 Port Charlotte
3/15 Stuart
3/15 Ft. Walton Beach
3/22 Sunrise
3/22 New Port Richey

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/01 WY1K Michael Whilpley
2/02 K4CWG Bud Hughes
2/03 KG4KBO Constance Bernhardt
2/04 W4LAC Jason Rudisill
2/12 KG4YFN Linda Farrington
2/14 WB4ZUY Wynn Rostek
2/15 KF4ZOL Jimmy Edwards
2/15 KF4UXT Jim Tyner
2/17 KE4YQL Clara Abell
2/17 KF4HTB Becky Lee
2/24 KG4UQG Robert Keim
2/25 W4GBW Charles Morehouse
2/26 KE4ZPA John Renninger